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THE EVOLUTION OF THE HEBREW PEOPLE. LAURA H. WILD. Charles Scribner's Sons. 1917. Pp. xii, 311. \$1.50.

This handy volume will serve the purpose of a manual for many people who need an easy introduction to the genius, content, and abiding significance of the Bible. The fields of ethnology, comparative religion, geography, sociology, and history, are drawn upon in good proportion and the author's wide reading has been sifted and compacted in a really interesting way. The preparation of the book follows apparently the author's experience in introducing the subject of early Hebrew culture to her undergraduate charges. In Part V we find but twenty pages devoted to the great subjects of the teachings of the Old Testament prophets, of Jesus, and of Paul. This is probably to be taken as a prospectus merely of another volume to follow the present one.

One of the notable and commendable points of the book is the sustained enthusiasm with which the variegated data are recalled and articulated. What is really a study of origins of the folk and phenomena of the Old Testament period may well help to an intelligent appreciation of that Levantine collection of writings, the Bible.

Such interest revealed and evoked is the main justification of this book. It ought to bring good results in many a group of students. Its success will not be affected by occasional slips, such as that on page 18, line 22, which popular English dictionaries like Webster's and the Standard will correct quickly enough for the pupils, or the wrong spelling of the name of the poet Vergil on pages 69 and 93. Such trustfulness as is shown on page 15 — "an inscription on a monument tells the truth" — is perhaps more dangerous. Professor A. T. Olmstead is showing by his painstaking studies that what we need is not so much Higher Criticism and the Monuments as Higher Criticism of the Monuments.

The author will by her suggestion of wide reading lead students to differ from her on certain points of interpretation, and will, like any good teacher, rejoice in the difference. The reviewer feels grateful whenever a competent teacher turns note-books into handy volumes of narrative or reference suitable for the rapid reading which the more eager students ought to do in quantity.

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